

Morning Worship Service

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

Our culture teaches us that the quality of life is improved the more we pamper it. There is a philosophy of life which wars against community, cooperation and partnership. One focus is on me. The other is on the common good. Into the tension of this situation comes the observation that the greatest people have always been service minded. They found their lives by losing them in service to God and to others.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Solemn Melody

Henry Walford Davies

ENTRY INTO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Song of Solomon 2:8-13, James 1:17-27)

Leader: Here, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in our hearts:

**People: calling us to generous acts,
to share the gifts we have been given.**

Leader: Now, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in our land:

**People: calling us to generous acts,
to open our hearts to all in need.**

Leader: In every place, in every moment,
our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds
in all creation:

**People: calling us to generous acts,
to stand with God's people:
the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Though people may turn their backs on us, you do not hide your face from us. Though others may try to take away our hope, you assure us of that future waiting for us. You speak your name, Inscrutable Creator, and it is enough. When we try to dictate our fears to you, you invite us to follow you into self-denial and service.

As we struggle to shape our lifestyle to yours, you carry us with you wherever we go. You speak your good news, Teacher of open hearts, and it is enough.

Though we have done nothing to earn them, you pour out the gifts of grace and mercy upon us. When we stumble over our lack of trust, you set us back on our feet, to follow you into the kingdom. You speak your peace, Breath of Holiness, and it is enough.

God in Community, Holy in One, it is enough that you hear us, even as we pray as we are taught,

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 391

Take My Life

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Leader: Let us willingly embrace that which we believe is true - we can come to the seat of grace, bringing our prayers of confession to the One who is filled to overflowing with mercy and hope. Join me as we pray together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We stand before you, Saving God, stripped of our pretensions and pride, for nothing we do or say, or do not, can be hidden from you. You hear the angry words we preach to ourselves; you sift through the rubble of hurts we have caused; you see how we stumble, weighed down by all that 'stuff' which keeps us from following Jesus.

We stand before you, Holy Grace. As you empty our hands of that wealth of unneeded things we cling so tightly to, fill them with your grace and hope. As we let go of all which might hold us back, give us the trust to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that life with which he offers to each of us. *(Pause for reflection and meditation)* Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone.

People: Committing everything to God, trusting in the One who redeems us, we decide to live as God's faithful and forgiven people. Amen.

*RESPONSE – No. 579

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Samuel Liddle

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Proverbs 22:1-2; 8-9](#)

[Mark 8:27-35](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Self Abandonment?

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) from *A Declaration of Faith*

We believe in one true and living God.

**We acknowledge one God alone,
whose help for us is sufficient.**

that One is the Lord

whom we worship, serve, and love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

O God, Our Faithful God (see insert)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Finale Jubilante

Healy Willan

*Congregation standing as able.

- Before the service, speak to God.
- During the service, let God speak to you.
- After the service, speak to one another.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Holiday Inn

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

Our closing hymn this morning is one of Christian commitment. It was composed by Johann Heermann (1585-1647), a Lutheran pastor who lived in Germany during the time of the Thirty Years War and the pestilence. This hymn seems to have been written between 1623 and 1630, during the time of Heermann's greatest suffering.

Please remember to dedicate your offering this morning. The offering plates are located in the Narthex. Contributions may also be mailed to: FPC, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802.

The new offering stands in the narthex are given by Field and Amy Thomas to the Glory of God and in memory of P.K. and Edith Thomas and Perry Thomas.

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the Glory of God and in memory of Gray and Madolyn Megginson, Leighton and Jean Pettis, and Keith and Dot Randle.

Nursery care is available for newborns through 4-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the children's sermon, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk**" with Heather Crotwell. This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

Both the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. services are live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Castles, who died on August 17. A graveside service was held on Saturday.

Start thinking about Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes today! There is a large bin just outside the Library for your donated supplies. Ideas include chalkboards, chalk, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, scissors, backpacks, small zippered bags, glue sticks, etc. ***NO liquids, lotions, or candy!*** For more information, contact Cindy Faucette at cfaucette@bellsouth.net or Jean Magee at jeanmagee@comcast.net.

The Presbyterian Women Event scheduled for Sunday, August 29 has been cancelled due to the increase in Covid-19 numbers. We hope to reschedule it when case numbers go down.

Cancer Treatments: Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler, Mike Thomas

Homebound: Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly, Sarah Parker

College Students: Ross Reeder, Lilee Rose, George Seiler

The Session

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator

Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2022

Steve Bryson

Anne Marie Littrell

Pete McMurry

Mary Pace

Buddy Stubbs

Virginia Tolivar

David Williams

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle

Susan Boone

Amy Fagan

Mitzi Moore

Aubrey Patterson, Jr.

Grayson Robbins

Debra Robison

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson

Cindy Faucette

Leslie Geoghegan

Michael Gratz, Jr.

Chauncey Godwin

Alice Rogers

Mike Thomas

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Heather Crotwell, Children’s Church Director

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Nannette Comer, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

First Presbyterian Church, 400 West Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802 (662) 842-5681

Support Haiti in its hour of greatest need



*And after the earthquake
... a sound of sheer silence.
Then there came a voice ...
that said, “What are you
doing here?”* (1 Kings 19:12-13)

Following the devastating Aug. 14 earthquake in Haiti, nearly 1,500 people are dead, thousands more injured and an unknown number still missing. Some 13,000 homes were destroyed and roads, bridges and communication systems damaged. Because Haiti is already facing endemic hunger and poverty, COVID-19, continuing civil unrest and the arrival of Tropical Storm Grace, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance. The PC(USA), through PDA, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

The needs for the response will be great. God’s people are once again called on to stand in the “GAP” — Give. Act. Pray.

- GIVE:** Gifts can be made at bit.ly/PDAHaiti, by phone at (800) 872-3283 or by check using the below reply device.
- ACT:**
 - Share our Mobile Cause campaign link (bit.ly/PDAHaiti).
 - Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources and share updates with your congregation.
- PRAY:** Pray for those who suffered loss of family or home and for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.

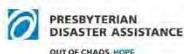


\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



PDA HE21-BI



Christmas in July!

Start thinking about Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes today! Now is a good time to purchase school supplies for shoeboxes. Ideas include chalkboards, chalk, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, scissors, backpacks, small zippered bags, glue sticks, etc. *NO liquids, lotions, or candy!* How about filling a box at home and bringing extra supplies to the church to add to boxes that are filled at the church? There is a box just outside the Library for your donated supplies. For more information, contact Cindy Faucette at cfaucette@bellsouth.net or Jean Magee at jeanmagee@comcast.net.

O God, Our Faithful God

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Cruger

Heermann

Mendelssohn

O God, our faith - ful God, O foun - tain ev - er flow - ing. With -
God, grant us strength to do, with read - y heart and will - ing, What -
If dan - gers gath - er 'round, still keep us calm and fear - less. Help

5
out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing. Grant
ev - er You com - mand, our cal - ling here ful - fill ing. And
us to bear the cross when life is bleak and cheer - less, To

9
us a faith - ful life and give us Lord with - in, com -
do it when we ought, with zeal and joy - ful - ness; and
ov - er - come our foes with words and ac - tions kind; O

13
mit - ment free from strife. A soul un - hurt by sin.
bless the work we've wrought, for You must give suc - cess.
God, Your will dis - close, Your coun - sel let us find.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

September 1

Jimmy Hardin & Archaeology Update

September 8

The one & only Jim Curtis

September 15

The one & only Olin McBride

September 22

The one & only Olin McBride

September 29

Rise Against Hunger

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

FAITHBUILDERS AT FPC RESUMES

6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1!

Ages 2 through Kindergarten

Cherub Choir and Activities

Teachers for music and activities are Leslie Geoghegan, Beth Anne Ellzey, and Kathy Wallace.

Grades 1-5

Faithbuilders

Music teachers are Danielle Ratliff and Brittany Rogers.
Activities teachers are Heather Crowell and Corey Littrell.